

# The Green Clan

## **Kickapoo Fish Consumption Advisory** - Article by Vernon Dempsey & Tej Attili

The Kickapoo Environmental Office received results for the 2011 Fish Tissue sampling conducted by Region 7 EPA and the Kickapoo Environmental Office. The results are comparable to the 2010 sampling results. In 2010 the sampling results were also five times more than the threshold limit. The Methyl Mercury levels for the 2011 samples are slightly higher than the 2010 samples. A total of 16 fish were caught and analyzed for Methyl Mercury. Each and every fish sampled had elevated levels of Methyl Mercury, five times more than the safe human consumption level (0.135 mg/kg). There are signs posted at the two ponds where fish were sampled. Pond 1 is located on the southeast corner of the K-20 highway and Goldfinch Road junction. Pond 2 is lo-

cated on the southwest corner of the Goldfinch Road and 130<sup>th</sup> Street junction. The Kickapoo Environmental Office advises that all persons fishing in the area limit their predatory and bottom feeding fish consumption. Fish consumption is dependent upon the weight of the person. For example: A person of 200lbs should be limited to 12oz. of fish per month. A person that weights 150lbs. would be limited to 9oz. of fish per month. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are advising women who may become pregnant, pregnant women,

nursing mothers, and young children to **totally avoid fish** that are high in mercury.

	K-20 Pond	K-20 Pond	130& Goldfinch
	Pond 1 (LMBass)	Pond 1 (Crappie)	Pond 2 (LMBass)
<b><u>Average Methyl Mercury Concentration</u></b>	<b><u>0.75mg/kg</u></b>	<b><u>0.59mg/kg</u></b>	<b><u>0.65mg/kg</u></b>
<b><u>Threshold level: 0.135mg/kg</u></b>			

The average mercury concentrations of predatory fish (15 fish including Largemouth Bass and Crappie) are included in the table above. One bottom feeder (Bullhead Yellow) was caught in 130<sup>th</sup> and Goldfinch Pond (Pond 2) and had 0.505 mg/kg of methyl mercury.

## **Kickapoo Environmental Day**

On May 15th, 2012, the Kickapoo Environmental Office held a Rain Barrel Workshop to help celebrate "Environmental Day" on the Kickapoo Reservation.

Students and teachers from the Kickapoo Nation School painted 39 rain barrels as part of a community service conservation project. The goal of this project is to help local citizens reduce their water usage and storm water runoff after heavy rains.

Rain barrels can provide a water supply for people to irrigate their lawn or water their gardens while reducing pollution.



## Kickapoo Environmental Office

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We're on the Web!  
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### Rain Barrel Project

*The Kickapoo Environmental Office would like to thank the teachers and students of the Kickapoo Nation School for painting the rain barrels for our community service conservation project. Your time and effort helped make our Environmental Day a huge success.*



### New Air Quality Coordinator for Tribe

The Kickapoo Environmental Office has a new employee, Scott Weir, who will be working in the Air Quality Program. Scott was most recently employed as the Air Quality Coordinator for the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska. Before that, he worked for many years at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Air and Radiation. Scott was born and raised in Topeka, and he still lives there. He is married (for 39 years), and has two sons, one in Wisconsin and one in Minnesota. Reading, (especially about Native American history and cultures and medieval European history) and wood-

working are two of his favorite activities.

In 1974, he graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology. Prior to his work in the field of air quality, Scott worked for twenty years as a medical technologist and analytical chemist. He currently serves as a member of the Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center steering committee. Scott will be working with Mike Kelley in conducting outreach related to improving both outdoor and indoor air quality. He says he is happy to be joining the K.E.O. team.

#### **Community Cleanup Week is Coming!**

The summer community cleanup event will be June 18th—22nd. Flyers will be distributed to remind you of the date and to post the schedules for each housing area.